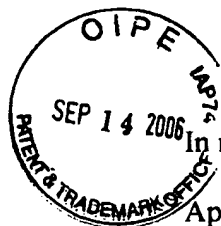


AP ZTU



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Johnson et al.

Application No.: 10/623,791

Filed: July 21, 2003

TISSUE DISTRACTION DEVICE

Examiner: Ralph A. Lewis

Art Unit: 3732

Confirmation. Number 6098

September 11, 2006

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Consideration of the following amendment and remarks is requested. A Final Office Action was issued on August 28, 2006. This response is being filed within two months of the mailing date so no fees are believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is requested to provide any extension of time that may be required and is authorized to deduct any associated fees from Deposit Account 13-0014.

**Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450** on September 11, 2006.

Michael D. Beck  
Signature

Michael D. Beck  
Typed or printed name of person of signing Certificate

PLEASE  
ENTER AF  
RESPONSE  
PL